

**EUTERPE: BEING THE
SECOND BOOK
OF THE FAMOUS
HISTORY OF HERODOTUS**

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Euterpe: being the second book of the famous History of Herodotus by Andrew Lang

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ANDREW LANG

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SECOND BOOK
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HISTORY OF HERODOTUS**

Euterpe : Being the Second Book of the
Famous History of Herodotus.

Englished by B. K. 1584.

Edited by Andrew

Barr.



LONDON. M.D.CCLXXXVIII. PUBLISHED BY DAVID
NUTT, IN THE STRAND.



TO

COLONEL HENRY YULE.

1887

Herodotus in Egypt.



He left the land of youth, he left the young,
The smiling Gods of Greece, he passed the isle
Where Jason lilted, and where Sappho sung :
He sought the secret-founted wave of Nile,
Of that old world, half dead a weary while ;
Heard the Priests murmur in their mystic tongue,
And through the fanes went voyaging, among
Dark tribes that worshipped Cat and Crocodile,

He learned the tales of Aesch Divine and birth,
Strange loves of hawk and serpent, Sky and Earth,
The marriage and the slaying of the Sea ;
The shrines of ghosts and beasts he wandered through,
And mocked not at their godhead, for he knew
Behind all creeds the Spirit that is One.—A. L.

To Herodotus.



FAR-TRAVELLED coasters of the Midland seas !
What marvels did those curious eyes behold, —
Winged snakes, and curvèd labyrinths of old ;
The emerald column raised to Heracles,
King Perseus' shrine upon the Cherronian lens,
Four-footed fishes, decked with gems and gold :
But thou didst leave some secrets yet untold,
And veiled the dread Osirian mysteries.

And now the golden asphodels among
Thy footsteps fare, and to the lordly dead
Thou tellest all the stories left unsaid
Of secret rites and rites forgotten long,
Of that dark folk who ate the Lotus-bread,
And sang the melancholy Lotus-song.

—G. R. T.

P R E F A C E.

THIS translation of the second book of Herodotus, the book on Egypt, is reprinted from a sufficiently rare volume, "*THE* | Famous History of | *HERODOTUS* | *Comprising the Discourse of divers Countreys, the succession | of their Kings: the artes and employes | established by them, the Lawes and customes of every Nation: with the | true Description and Antiquitie of the same. | Divided into nine Bookes, entituled with | the names of the nine Muses. | AT LONDON. | Printed by Thomas Marsh, 1584."*

The little quarto only contains Books i. and ii. The Dedication runs:—"To the right excellent and virtuous *Gentleman Maysier Robert Dornier*, *wonne to the noble Knight Sir Wyllyam Dornier*, *B. R.* wisheth increase of worship, with the favoure of God." Who is B. R.† Barnaby Rich has been guessed at; nothing is certainly known. He writes in a very colloquial style, too colloquial for Herodotus, and his pages are

a treasure of old English slang. He is as inaccurate, or as careless of close rendering rather, as may be. But B. R. tells a story with point, with breadth; above all, with enjoyment. Of what other translator of Herodotus can we say as much! Not of Beloe the proverbially flat, nor of Rawlinson the respectable.

As to the book itself, it is not common. Besides that in the British Museum, I have only seen a copy once belonging to Mr. Payne Collier, and now to the Rev. W. J. Lottie, and my own copy, which, I am happy to say, is much taller, cleaner, and in better case than Mr. Lottie's. The Editor may end by hoping that a new translator of Herodotus will arise, as lively as B. R.; less addicted to slang, and as accurate as modern scholarship can make him.

